

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07  
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /068 W  
-----115340 260527Z /10

R 251607Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ROME  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3061  
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS  
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN  
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN  
USMISSION GENEVA  
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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BRUSSELS ALSO USEEC; GENEVA ALSO USMTN; PARIS ALSO OECD

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EAGR, EEC, IT  
SUBJECT: ITALIAN VIEWS ON EC AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS MEETING

REF: (A) BRUSSELS 9192, (B) BRUSSELS 9137, (C) BRUSSELS 9569

1. ACTIVITIES AND DECISIONS OF MAY 8-12 EC COUNCIL OF  
AGRICULTURAL MINISTERS, AS WELL AS ITALIAN DELIBERATIONS  
AND DECISION ON ITS RESERVE ON PRICE PACKAGE (REF C),  
RECEIVED HEAVY MEDIA COVERAGE. PRESS GENERALLY CREDITED  
AGRICULTURAL MINISTER MARCORA WITH WAGING STRONG FIGHT  
IN PROTECTION OF ITALIAN INTERESTS AND, FOR THE MOST PART,  
ACCEPTED GOI'S REMOVAL OF ITS RESERVE ON PRICE.

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2. IN CONVERSATION MAY 22 WITH ECMIN AND AGATT,  
AGRICULTURAL MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL ROMUALDO MORONI  
PASSED LIGHTLY OVER PRICE PACKAGE DECISIONS, CONCEDED  
THAT THEY HAD NOT CONSTITUTED PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT  
ISSUE FOR ITALY. RATHER, HE SAID, FOCUS OF ITALIAN  
INTEREST WAS ON MEDITERRANEAN PACKAGE. MORONI SEEMED

REASONABLY CONTENT WITH WHAT ITALY HAD GAINED. HE STRESSED THAT THE IMPORTANT ISSUE HAD NOT BEEN THAT ON WHICH PRESS HAD FOCUSED--I.E. THE FUNDS FOR FORESTATION AND FARM ADVISORY SERVICES WHICH THE COMMISSION HAD ALREADY PROPOSED BUT WERE THEN DELETED BY THE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY--BUT RATHER THE FACT THAT EC HAD FINALLY FACED UP TO THE MAIN ISSUE OF CONCERN TO ITALY, I.E. THE DISPARITY OF TREATMENT BETWEEN NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND MEDITERRANEAN PRODUCTS. PRESENT PACKAGE, MORONI ASSERTED, SHOULD BE RECOGNIZED AS BEING ONLY A FIRST STEP. NONETHELESS, MORONI WAS NOT UNDULY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT FURTHER STEPS EC WOULD TAKE, DESPITE ASSURANCES GIVEN BY COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURE MINISTERS AND MESSAGE FROM CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT, IN WHICH SCHMIDT STATED THAT FRG "REALIZES THE GREAT IMPORTANCE PLACED BY ITALY ON A RE-EQUILIBRIUM OF THE COUNTRY'S AGRICULTURAL POLICY BETWEEN THE NORTH AND SOUTH" AND ASSURED THAT DURING FORTHCOMING PERIOD OF GERMAN PRESIDENCY OF COUNCIL "EVERY STEP WILL BE TAKEN TO TACKLE THE STILL UNSOLVED PROBLEMS OF THE MEDITERRANEAN PACKAGE IN THE MOST IMPARTIAL MANNER IN AN EFFORT TO ARRIVE AT A POSITIVE SOLUTION" (QUOTES AS REPORTED IN PRESS).

3. WITH RESPECT TO WINE, WE ASKED WHETHER FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR MINIMUM PRICE SCHEME GOVERNING INTRA-EC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRADE WOULD NOT HAVE REPRESENTED IMPORTANT CHANGE IN INTERNAL AGRICULTURAL POLICY. MORONI AGREED, SAYING THAT THE FRENCH HAD CLEARLY LOST ON THIS ISSUE, ALTHOUGH A FACE-SAVING DEVICE HAD BEEN WORKED OUT IN THE END.

4. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION SAME DAY, FOREIGN MINISTRY COORDINATOR FOR GATT AND EC AFFAIRS RENATO RUGGIERO TOLD ECOMIN THAT ITALY HAD COME OUT REASONABLY WELL FROM DISCUSSION OF MEDITERRANEAN PACKAGE. HE FLATLY DENIED PRESS REPORTS ABOUT DEBATE WITHIN GOI ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT THE PACKAGE, ASSERTING THAT BOTH FOREIGN AND AGRICULTURE MINISTRIES HAD AGREED ON ACCEPTANCE. PRESS ALLEGATIONS THAT FOREIGN MINISTRY WANTED TO "GIVE IN" TO OTHER EC MEMBERS WHILE AGRICULTURE MINISTRY HOLDING OUT FOR ITALIAN INTERESTS, HE SAID, WERE ERRONEOUS AND INTENDED TO MAKE MARCORA AND HIS MINISTRY LOOK GOOD. GARDNER

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** AGRICULTURE, MINISTERIAL MEETINGS, REGIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, MONETARY AGREEMENTS  
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**Draft Date:** 25 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Reference:** 78 BRUSSELS 9192, 78 BRUSSELS 9137, 78 BRUSSELS 9569  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014